

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, CSCE

SUBJECT: ECE - PREPARATIONS FOR 31ST SESSION - WESTERN CAUCUS
MEETING MARCH 2

REF: STATE 46665, STATE 48818, STATE 49856, GENEVA 1380,
GENEVA 1459

1. SUMMARY: ECE WESTERN CAUCUS MET MARCH 2 TO DISCUSS
PREPARATIONS FOR 31ST SESSION OF ECE, GENEVA, MARCH 30-
APRIL 9, 1976. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON ECE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY'S REPORT (E/ECE/900) ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF
COMMISSION (IN LIGHT OF ECE RESOLUTION 2(XXX) AND CSCE FINAL
ACT). OUTCOME OF DISCUSSION, AS SUMMARIZED BY CHAIRMAN (UK),
WAS:

(A) GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES MUST BE CONSIDERED BY ECE (WITHOUT CHANGING ITS
BASIC EAST-WEST FOCUS) AND ENCOURAGEMENT THAT COMPROMISE ON
DEVELOPING COUNTRY TERMINOLOGY MIGHT BE POSSIBLE;

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(B) OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA THAT CSCE FOLLOW-UP

ON PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT, RAISED BY BREZHNEV IN HIS WARSAW ADDRESS, SHOULD BE DEALT WITH WITHIN THE ECE;

(C) SUPPORT FOR A DECISION AT THE 31ST SESSION ON THE PROGRAMS SET FORTH IN THE ANNEXES TO E/ECE/900 BUT UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW TO GO ABOUT IT; AND

(D) AGREEMENT THAT STANOVNIK SEEMED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO STREAMLINE ECE ALONG LINES DESIRED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES. CAUCUS ALSO DISCUSSED OFFICERS AND AGENDA FOR 31ST SESSION AND QUESTION OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS IN ECE FOR DANUBE COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.

2. WESTERN CAUCUS MET MARCH 2 TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR 31ST SESSION OF ECE AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK'S REPORT (E/ECE/900) ON THE FUTURE WORK OF THE COMMISSION. DISCUSSION CONCENTRATED ON LATTER ITEM, WITH MOST DELEGATIONS EXPRESSEING GENERAL SUPPORT FOR STANOVNIK REPORT, AS GOOD BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT 31ST SESSION.

3. LUXEMBOURG DEL, SPEAKING FOR EC NINE, LED OFF WITH LENGTHY REVIEW OF STATUS OF EC CONSIDERATION OF REPORT. WHILE EXPRESSING GENERAL SUPPORT FOR STANOVNIK APPROACH, HE RAISED FOUR PARTICULAR PROBLEM AREAS: (A) AN EXPANDED ROLE FOR ECE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (BEYOND INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND PREPARATION OF CONVENTIONS ON SPECIFIC ISSUES), (B) PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST, (C) ENERGY, AND (D) PROBLEMS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WHILE NO FINAL POSITION HAD BEEN REACHED ON THESE ISSUES, ECE OBVIOUSLY HAD DOUBTS CONCERNING (A) A GREATLY EXPANDED ROLE FOR ECE (PRIMARILY THROUGH SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISERS) IN FIELD OF LONG TERM PLANNING, (B) A MAJOR ROLE FOR THE SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISERS IN IDENTIFYING PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST IN ALL FIELDS (RATHER THAN LEAVING THIS PRIMARILY TO STATES DIRECTLY CONCERNED), (C) A GLOBAL APPROACH BY ECE TO ENERGY PROBLEMS (RATHER THAN CONCENTRATION ONLY ON CERTAIN SECTORS SUCH AS COAL, ELECTRICITY AND GAS), AND (D) A NEW EMPHASIS ON PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

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4. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS COMMENTED ON COMPREHENSIVENESS OF WORK PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS ADVANCED BY STANOVNIK IN ANNEXES TO E/ECE/900. CANADA STATED IT HAD EXPECTED MORE GENERAL APPROACH ON BASIS OF WHICH SUBSIDIARY BODIES COULD FORMULATE OWN WORK PROGRAM. MOST DELEGATES FELT, HOWEVER, THAT COMMISSION SHOULD COME TO GRIPS WITH ALL OF STANOVNIK PROPOSALS. EC (PARTICULARLY FRG) STRESSED NEED FOR COMMISSION TO PRONOUNCE ITSELF ON AS MUCH OF PROGRAM AS POSSIBLE, WHILE

OTHERS EMPHASIZED AGREEMENT ON GENERAL GUIDELINES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES.

5. MAJOR DEBATE DEVELOPED ON QUESTION OF NEW EMPHASIS ON PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. STRESS OF EC AND OTHERS THAT ECE SHOULD CONTINUE FOCUS ON EAST-WEST COOPERATION WAS CHALLENGED BY MALTA, WHICH ASSERTED THAT ECE SHOULD SCRAP EAST-WEST AND NORTH-SOUTH LABELS AND MUST CONCENTRATE ON ALL TYPES OF PROBLEMS TO BE RELEVANT. TURKEY DID NOT OBJECT TO EAST-WEST TERMINOLOGY, SINCE DIFFERENCE IN ECONOMIC/SOCIAL SYSTEMS WAS MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES IN EUROPE. IT HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WOULD NOT EXCLUDE ATTENTION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRY PROBLEMS AND THAT OUTMODED "LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES" TERMINOLOGY STILL USED BY ECE COULD BE REVISED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF USE OF TERM "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" IN CSCE FINAL ACT. IN LATTER REGARD TURKEY SAW SOME SIGNS OF COMPROMISE ON PART OF USSR. CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY ALSO SUPPORTED BY SPAIN AND GREECE, WHILE US WELCOMED POSSIBLE COMPROMISE.

6. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH US MISSION OFFICERS ON FEBRUARY 26, SOVIET MISSION OFFICERS AGAIN ASSERTED THAT CHANGE FROM TRADITIONAL "LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRY" TERMINOLOGY UTILIZED BY ECE WOULD LEAD TO BASIC CHANGE IN ECE FROM EAST-WEST TO NORTH-SOUTH FORUM. THEY HINTED, HOWEVER, AT POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE ON BASIS OF EXTENDED TERMINOLOGY IN FINAL ACT, I.E., "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ... SO LONG AS THEY ARE DEVELOPING FROM THE ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW." FRG MISSION OFFICER ALSO HAS EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO ANY CHANGE IN TERMINOLOGY ON BASIS THAT ECE RECOGNITION OF SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD OPEN THE WAY TO DEMANDS IN OTHER FORA AND BILATERALLY FOR VARIOUS ASSSISTANCE AND CONCESSIONS. END COMMENT.

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7. ITEM ON MARGINS OF DISCUSSION BUT OF PARTICULAR INTEREST CONCERNED BREZHNEV PROPOSALS RE SPECIAL CONFERENCES ON PROBLEMS OF TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT. EC STATED ECE COULD DEAL WITH THESE QUESTIONS. AUSTRIA SAID ECE SHOULD PLAY FULL ROLE TO AVOID INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE ECE. US DEL SAID US REGARDED ECE AS IDEAL FORUM FOR BASKET II FOLLOW-UP OF THIS KIND AND THAT BREZHNEV PROPOSALS SEEMED TO GO BEYOND ENVISAGED CSCE FOLLOW-UP AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED AT BELGRADE REVIEW MEETING IF PURSUED BY USSR.

8. SUMMING UP MEETING, CHAIRMAN (UK) SAW:

(A) GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST BE CONSIDERED BY ECE (WITHOUT CHANGING ITS BASIC EAST-WEST FOCUS) AND ENCOURAGEMENT THAT COMPROMISE ON DEVELOPING COUNTRY TERMINOLOGY MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

(B) OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR THE IDEA THAT CSCE FOLLOW-UP IN TRANSPORT, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS (RAISED BY BREZHNEV IN HIS WARSAW ADDRESS) SHOULD BE DEALT WITH WITHIN THE ECE, UNLESS
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VERY CONVINCING REASON ADVANCED FOR OTHER APPROACH;

(C) SUPPORT FOR A DECISION AT THE 31ST SESSION ON THE PROGRAMS SET FORTH IN THE ANNEXES TO E/ECE/900 BUT UNCERTAINTY AS TO HOW TO GO ABOUT IT; AND

(D) AGREEMENT THAT STANOVNIK SEEMED TO BE ATTEMPTING TO STREAMLINE ECE ALONG LINES DESIRED BY MEMBER COUNTRIES.

9. ON QUESTION OF AGENDA FOR 31ST SESSION, CAUCUS AGREED TO DISCUSS TOGETHER ITEMS 5, 6 AND 7 AND TO CONSIDER DISCUSSING TOGETHER SUB-ITEMS (D), (E) AND (F) OF ITEM 4.

10. ON QUESTION OF OFFICERS FOR 31ST SESSION, CAUCUS AGREED TO SUPPORT CORNELIO SOMMARUGA (SWITZERLAND) FOR VICE CHAIRMAN AND FRANZ WEISGLAS (NETHERLANDS) FOR RAPPORTEUR. SOMMARUGA IS MINISTER PLENIPOTENTIARY, MEMBER OF DIRECTORATE OF DIVISION OF COMMERCE IN CHARGE OF SWISS

ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN EUROPE (CURRICULUM VITAE SENT IO/CMD, KAHN). WEISGLAS IS SECOND SECRETARY, NETHERLANDS PERMANENT MISSION, GENEVA.

1. ON QUESTION OF RESOLUTIONS, MALTA STATED INTENTION TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION TO REQUEST STUDY OF CERTAIN QUESTION AND REFERRAL BACK TO 32ND SESSION. MALTA DID NOT IDENTIFY SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION BUT PRESUMABLY IT WILL RELATE TO ECE CONCERN WITH PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ISLAND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PARTICULAR. YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH HAS INFORMALLY INDICATED ITS INTENTION TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT OF ECE ACTIVITIES FOR BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REMAINED SILENT DURING ENTIRE SESSION. (SEE GENEVA 276 AND 1204.)

12. CHAIRMAN INFORMED CAUCUS THAT DANUBE COMMISSION DESIRED CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECE UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF RULES OF PROCEDURE ON SAME BASIS AS RHINE COMMISSION. RHINE COMMISSION WAS GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY ECE IN 1947. EASTERN COUNTRIES WERE NOT THEN PARTICIPATING IN ECE SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND DID NOT OPPOSE. QUESTION OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR OTHER BODIES WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RAISED BUT NO DECISION WAS TAKEN AND SUCH BODIES HAVE SENT REPS TO ECE MEETINGS IN PERSONAL CAPACITIES. CONSULTATIVE STATUS WAS GRANTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO ECE AND CMEA AT ECE 30TH SESSION ON BASIS OF PRIOR AGREEMENT BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTER CAUCUSES. MEMBERS OF WESTERN CAUCUS SEEMED INCLINED TOWARD SIMILAR PROCEDURE TO GRANT CONSULTATIVE STATUS TO DANUBE COMMISSION AT 31ST SESSION BUT DECIDED TO DEFER DECISION UNTIL NEXT CAUCUS MEETING IN ORDER TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS.

13. NEXT MEETING OF CAUCUS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 23. MEANWHILE CHAIRMAN WILL EXPLORE QUESTION OF SETTING UP WORKING GROUP FOR CONTACTS WITH EASTERN CAUCUS. (EASTERN COUNTRIES REPORTEDLY HOLDING COORDINATING MEETING ON 31ST SESSION PREPARATIONS THIS WEEK IN MOSCOW.)

14. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE RE US POSITION ON CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR DANUBE COMMISSION. DALE

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Message Attributes

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